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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 11

FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF THE COMMISSION

Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand*, Philippines*, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand*: draft resolution

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolutions 41/153 of 4 December 1986, 43/140 of 8 December 1988 and 45/168 of 18 December 1990, affirmed the value of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region,

Recalling also its own resolutions 1988/73 of 10 March 1988, 1989/50 of 7 March 1989, 1990/71 of 7 March 1990, 1991/28 of 5 March 1991, 1992/40 of 28 February 1992 and 1993/57 of 9 March 1993,

Recalling further that the World Conference on Human Rights, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, emphasized that regional arrangements played a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights,

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* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Taking note of resolution 45/2 adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on 5 April 1989,

Bearing in mind that intergovernmental arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights have been established in other regions,

Welcoming the joint communiqué of the 26th Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ministerial Meeting held at Singapore on 23 and 24 July 1993 whereby it was agreed that in support of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, ASEAN should consider the establishment of an appropriate regional mechanism on human rights; and welcoming also the holding of the ASEAN Colloquium on Human Rights at Manila on 16 and 17 January 1994, the first in a series of workshops to be organized by the ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Studies, intended inter alia to lead and facilitate the process of developing a subregional human rights body for the promotion and protection of human rights in the ASEAN countries,

Recognizing the valuable contribution that independent national institutions can make in the field of human rights to the concept of regional arrangements,

Recognizing also that non-governmental organizations genuinely involved in the field of human rights have a valuable role in this process,

Recalling the contribution made by the Second Asia-Pacific Workshop on Human Rights Issues, National Institutions and Regional Arrangements, held at Jakarta from 26 to 28 January 1993, particularly its Chairman's concluding remarks,

Welcoming the decision of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host an Asia-Pacific regional meeting on human rights at Seoul, in 1994,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1994/40) and the progress achieved in the implementation of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/57 of 9 March 1993;

2. Encourages all States members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and other parties to make full use of the depositary centre of that organization, and requests the Secretary-General to maintain a continuing flow of human rights materials to its library;

3. Also encourages the United Nations development agencies in the Asian and Pacific region to coordinate with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and other United Nations agencies in their efforts to promote the human rights dimension in their activities;

4. Welcomes the regional workshops on various human rights issues which have been held in the Asian and Pacific region, namely the Seminar on National, Local and Regional Arrangements for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian Region, held at Colombo from 21 June to 2 July 1982, the first Asia-Pacific Workshop on Human Rights, held at Manila, from 7 to 11 May 1990, and the second Asia-Pacific Workshop on Human Rights Issues, held at Jakarta, from 26 to 28 January 1993, all of which focused on national institutions and regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights;

5. Welcomes the establishment of national commissions for human rights by the Governments of India and Indonesia, and the decisions concerning and the preparatory steps being taken towards the establishment of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights by the Governments of Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Thailand;

6. Endorses the decision of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host an Asia-Pacific regional meeting in 1994 at Seoul on the region's consultative mechanism;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to facilitate the realization of the decision of the Government of the Republic of Korea to hold that regional meeting under the regular budget for advisory services and technical assistance;

8. Encourages all States in the Asian and Pacific region to consider further the establishment of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, taking into account the various approaches and mechanisms identified in the Chairman's concluding remarks at the second Asia-Pacific Workshop held at Jakarta;

9. Appeals to all Governments in the Asian and Pacific region to consider making use of the possibility offered by the United Nations to organize, under the programme of advisory services and technical assistance for the promotion and protection of human rights, information and/or training courses at the national or regional level for appropriate government personnel

on the application of international human rights standards and the experience of relevant national and international organs;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to give adequate attention to the countries in the Asian and Pacific region as regards benefiting from all the activities under the programme of advisory services and technical assistance in the field of human rights, particularly in the light of interest in the region in developing national institutions and regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights;

11. Appeals to the Secretary-General to make more resources available for the strengthening or the establishment of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights under the programme of advisory services and technical assistance of the Centre for Human Rights;

12. Encourages States in the Asian and Pacific region to request assistance for such purposes as regional and sub-regional workshops, seminars and information exchanges designed to strengthen regional cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights;

13. Also encourages all States in the Asian and Pacific region to consider ratifying and acceding to international human rights instruments adopted within the framework of the United Nations system, with the aim of universal acceptance;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to consult the States in the Asian and Pacific region on the widest possible basis in the implementation of the present resolution;

15. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-first session a further report incorporating information on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution;

16. Decides to continue its consideration of the question at its fifty-first session under the agenda item entitled "Further promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the question of the programme and methods of work of the Commission".

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FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic*, Finland, Germany, Latvia*, Madagascar*, Netherlands, Norway*, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia* and Sweden*: draft resolution

The protection of human rights in the context of human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)

The Commission on Human Rights,

Convinced that HIV/AIDS-related discrimination is a contravention of the fundamental principle of non-discrimination as reaffirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights,

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* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 46/203 of 20 December 1991 and 45/187 of 21 December 1990, Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/86 of 27 July 1990, World Health Assembly resolutions WHA41.24 of 13 May 1988, WHA43.10 of 16 May 1990, WHA45.35 of 14 May 1992 and WHA46.37 of ... May 1993, general recommendation 15 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against women and other relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by organizations of the United Nations system, as well as by other competent forums,

Recalling its resolution 1990/65 of 7 March 1990, in which it endorsed the appointment by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of Mr. Luis Varela Quirós to undertake a study on problems and causes of discrimination against people infected with HIV or people with AIDS, and its resolutions 1992/56 of 3 March 1992 and 1993/53 of 9 March 1993 concerning discrimination against people with HIV infection or AIDS,

Acknowledging the significant role of the World Health Organization, within the framework of the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS, in combating discrimination against HIV-infected persons, including people with AIDS,

Recognizing the major contribution made by national and international non-governmental organizations in particular organizations of people with HIV/AIDS, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in fighting discrimination against and advocating the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS,

Noting with appreciation the Rights and Humanity Declaration and Charter on HIV and AIDS, transmitted to the Commission at its forty-eighth session by the Permanent Mission of the Gambia to the United Nations (E/CN.4/1992/82),

Recognizing that the challenges presented by HIV/AIDS require renewed efforts to ensure universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Concerned that lack of full enjoyment of their fundamental rights by persons suffering from economic, social or legal disadvantage heightens their vulnerability to the risk of HIV infection,

Noting that, according to a report submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-third session (E/CN.6/1989/6/Add.1), women are especially vulnerable to the risk of HIV infection and to the economic and social impact of AIDS as a result of their disadvantageous legal, social and economic status,

Alarmed at discriminatory laws and policies and the emergence of new forms of discriminatory practices which deny people with HIV infection or AIDS, their families and associates enjoyment of their fundamental rights and freedoms,

Concerned that the fear and ignorance surrounding AIDS are leading to increased stigmatization of and prejudice against people with HIV/AIDS or presumed to be at risk of infection, sometimes resulting in intimidation, harassment or violence against such individuals, as well as to arbitrary detention and deportation,

Bearing in mind that, as recognized by the World Health Assembly in its resolution WHA45.35, there is no public health rationale for any measures that limit the rights of the individual, notably measures establishing mandatory screening,

Recognizing that anti-discrimination measures form a component part of an effective public health strategy,

Stressing that discrimination and stigmatization are counter-productive to measures to prevent and control HIV/AIDS,

Emphasizing the responsibility of Governments, in a spirit of human solidarity and tolerance, to counter social stigmatization of and discrimination against those affected by HIV/AIDS, their families and those with whom they live, and people considered to be at risk of infection,

1. Calls upon all States to ensure that their laws, policies and practices, including those introduced in the context of HIV/AIDS, respect human rights standards and do not have the effect of inhibiting programmes for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and for the case of persons infected with HIV/AIDS;

2. Also calls upon all States to take all the necessary steps, including appropriate and speedy redress procedures, to ensure the full enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights by people with HIV/AIDS, their families and those in any way associated with them, and people presumed to be at

risk of infection, with particular attention to women, children and vulnerable groups, in order to prevent discriminatory action against them or their social stigmatization, and to ensure their access to the necessary care and support;

3. Urges all States to include in their AIDS programmes measures to combat social stigmatization, discrimination and violence directed against persons with HIV/AIDS, and to take the necessary steps to develop the supportive social environment necessary for the effective prevention and care of AIDS;

4. Also urges all States to review their legislation and practice to ensure the right to privacy and integrity of persons with HIV/AIDS and those presumed to be at risk of infection;

5. Invites the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other similar bodies to give full attention to monitoring States parties' compliance with their commitments under the relevant human rights instruments regarding the rights of people infected with HIV/AIDS, their families and people with whom they live, or people presumed to be at risk of infection;

6. Urges relevant working groups and special rapporteurs to consider in their reports the impact of HIV/AIDS on the enjoyment of human rights;

7. Welcomes the preliminary, progress and final reports of Mr. Luis Varela Quirós, Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, on discrimination against HIV-infected people or people with AIDS (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/9, E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/10, E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/10 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/1993/9), and requests the Secretary-General to bring these reports to the attention of the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, specialized agencies, working groups and special rapporteurs, as well as to the human rights treaty bodies, the World Bank and other relevant financial institutions, and those concerned with the status of women;

8. Also welcomes resolution EB93.R5 of 21 January 1994 adopted by the Executive Board of the World Health Organization, in which the Executive Board recommended the development and eventual establishment of a joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS and urged that human rights concerns be incorporated into the strategies implementing the new programme;

9. Expresses its grave concern about the risk which the continuing exploitation of children and child prostitution pose for the transmission of HIV, and calls upon the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery to pay sustained attention to this question;

10. Calls upon relevant professional bodies to re-examine their codes of professional practice with the view of strengthening respect for human rights and dignity in the context of HIV/AIDS, and calls upon the relevant authorities to develop training in this regard;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare for the consideration of the Commission at its fifty-first session a report on international and domestic measures taken to protect human rights and prevent discrimination in the context of HIV/AIDS and to make appropriate recommendations thereon.

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Agenda item 19

ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Norway*, Peru, Spain*, Uruguay, Venezuela: draft resolution

Assistance to Guatemala in the field of human rights

The Commission on Human Rights,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Reiterating that the Governments of all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, even under exceptional circumstances,

Recalling its resolution 1993/88 of 10 March 1993,

Taking into account Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities resolution 1993/16 of 20 August 1993,

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* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Having considered the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture (E/CN.4/1994/31), the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (E/CN.4/1994/26) and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (E/CN.4/1994/7),

Having considered also the report of the independent expert Mrs. Monica Pinto (E/CN.4/1994/10), and studied the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Welcoming the mobilization of the people of Guatemala, which has made possible the restoration of the constitutional order and the rule of law following the events of 25 May 1993, and which has led to the appointment as constitutional President of the Republic of Mr. Ramiro de León Carpio, whose work as Human Rights Procurator has been widely recognized by Guatemalan society,

Taking into account the fact that the continuation of the internal armed conflict is a factor affecting the human rights situation in Guatemala,

Taking note of the legal and institutional reforms introduced by the Government with a view to combating impunity and guaranteeing the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms for everyone in Guatemala,

Concerned by the fact that there continue to be human rights violations attributed to members of the armed forces and security forces, and to the so-called voluntary civil self-defence committees,

Concerned also by the fact that situations of impunity continue to exist and that in cases of human rights violations there has been little progress in the investigations and/or judicial proceedings,

Concerned further at the situation of the displaced population in the areas affected by the internal armed conflict, especially in the so-called communities in resistance,

Regretting the serious human rights violations and marginalization that have been suffered by the indigenous populations in Guatemala,

Considering that the economic and social situation continues to have serious consequences, particularly for the indigenous populations and for the most vulnerable sectors of Guatemalan society, such as women and children,

Taking note with satisfaction of the process of repatriation of refugees that was initiated at the beginning of 1993,

Taking note also of the Framework Agreement for the resumption of the peace negotiations between the Government of Guatemala and Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca, signed in Mexico City on 10 January 1994,

Expressing the hope that the will shown by the Government and by Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca will lead to a prompt settlement of the internal armed conflict and will contribute to the establishment of firm and lasting peace, through the conclusion of the negotiations in the near future, including the signing of the human rights agreement, with international verification within the time-limits and on the terms agreed on by the parties, an agreement whose realization will contribute to full respect for the human rights of the whole of the Guatemalan people,

Recognizing the importance of the role that will be played by the representative of the Secretary-General as mediator in these negotiations, and of the participation of the Group of Friendly Countries composed of Colombia, Mexico, Norway, Spain, United States of America and Venezuela, and of civil society, on the terms established in the Framework Agreement,

Considering that it is necessary for the international community to continue to keep the human rights situation in Guatemala under review and to provide advisory services in the field of human rights, with the aim of promoting full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and supporting the efforts of the Government of Guatemala to that end,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report submitted by the independent expert;

2. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of Guatemala for the facilities and cooperation afforded to the independent expert;

3. Recognizes the efforts made by President Ramiro de León Carpio and urges him to continue to adopt the necessary urgent measures to consolidate the democratic institutions and to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms;

4. Regrets that the undertaking by the Government of Guatemala to guarantee full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms has not yet assumed practical form through a more significant improvement, since serious

violations of human rights continue to occur, particularly threats and intimidation and crimes against the lives and physical integrity of individuals;

5. Urges both parties to respect the applicable rules of international humanitarian law in the internal armed conflict and to refrain from any activities that may endanger the rights of the great majority of Guatemalans, who are not involved in this conflict;

6. Exhorts the Government of Guatemala to adopt the necessary legal and political measures to guarantee the independence of the Judiciary and respect for its decisions, to intensify investigations aimed at identifying and bringing to justice all those responsible for violations of human rights, to provide compensation for the victims of such violations, to ensure that the judicial system can operate with due protection being afforded to judges, investigators, witnesses and relatives of victims, and to facilitate the activities of organizations, both official and non-governmental, concerned with the promotion and protection of human rights;

7. Again exhorts the Government of Guatemala to continue to apply the independent expert's recommendations, such as the abolition of the system of voluntary civil self-defence committees, starting in those areas in which there is no armed conflict and in accordance with the criteria established in the peace negotiations, and also exhorts it to promote the approval by Congress of the new law regulating the performance of military service and eliminating arbitrary recruitment practices;

8. Again appeals to the Government of Guatemala to intensify its efforts to ensure that all its authorities and the armed forces and security forces fully respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Guatemalan people, and encourages it to include in the curricula and training programmes for personnel of the armed forces and security forces the constitutional provisions and the international commitments undertaken by the Government of Guatemala in the field of human rights;

9. Again exhorts the Government of Guatemala to expedite and develop legal and institutional reforms to put an end to the violence and impunity, paying particular attention to the implementation of the legal standards

guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of the indigenous peoples and the most vulnerable sectors of the population, including street children;

10. Expresses its conviction that the pre-eminence of civilian authority in the national decision-making process is an indispensable

condition for the consolidation of the rule of law and the full realization of human rights, since it enables all sectors of Guatemalan society to support and respect civilian authority;

11. Recognizes the positive work done in defence of human rights by the Human Rights Procurator and exhorts the Government to give him support and to guarantee the conditions for the strengthening of his activities, inter alia, through the adoption of legislative measures to enable him to participate in proceedings relating to human rights violations;

12. Encourages the Government of Guatemala to provide the requisite facilities and adopt the necessary measures to ensure that the Presidential Commission on Human Rights (COPREDEH) is the focal point for the coordination of the Government's efforts to comply with its international obligations in the field of human rights;

13. Exhorts the Government of Guatemala to promote concrete activities that will enable the population to attain better living standards, giving priority to the economic and social development programmes, and to strengthen policies and programmes concerning Guatemala's indigenous population, taking into account their proposals and aspirations, together with the independent expert's recommendations on the subject;

14. Encourages continuation of the refugee repatriation process, appeals to the competent authorities to ensure that this process continues with full consideration for the well-being and dignity of all affected persons, providing the necessary facilities for their prompt resettlement in their places of origin, and urges the parties concerned to comply strictly with the agreements reached on the subject since October 1992;

15. Urges the Government of Guatemala to assist the civilian population displaced by the internal armed conflict and to help them to form their communities;

16. Also urges the Government of Guatemala to consider the earliest possible ratification of the international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party, in particular the International Labour Organisation's Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries;

17. Takes note with satisfaction of the Framework Agreement for the resumption of the peace negotiations between the Government of Guatemala and Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca, signed on 10 January 1994, and pays tribute to the work of the representative of the Secretary-General as mediator and the efforts of the Group of Friendly Countries to advance the peace process;

18. Expresses the hope that the negotiations under way in Mexico City between the Government of Guatemala and Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca will lead to the signing of a firm and lasting peace agreement in 1994;

19. Urges both parties, as part of this process, to reach substantive agreements on all items on the agenda, and to conclude and implement without delay the human rights agreement, with the corresponding machinery for international verification;

20. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Government of Guatemala and non-governmental organizations with advisory services in the field of human rights;

21. Also requests the Secretary-General to extend the mandate of the independent expert so that she may continue to examine the situation of human rights in Guatemala, provide assistance to the Government in the field of human rights, and submit to the Commission at its fifty-first session a report assessing the measures taken by the Government in accordance with the recommendations made to it;

22. Decides to consider the question at its fifty-first session under the agenda item "Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories" or the item "Advisory services in the field of human rights", in the light of the adoption and application of specific and

significant measures by the Government, the effectiveness of which will be assessed in the report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Guatemala.

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FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Argentina*, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic*, France, Germany, Guatemala*, Japan, Jordan*, Kenya, Malawi, Nicaragua*, Peru, Philippines*, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal*, Ukraine*, Uruguay and Venezuela: draft resolution

Strengthening of the rule of law

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling that the achievement of international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without any distinction as to race, sex, language and religion, is one of the purposes of the United Nations,

Recalling also that, by adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

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* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Firmly convinced that, as stressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the rule of law is an essential factor in the protection of human rights,

Convinced also that through their own national legal and judicial systems States must provide appropriate civil, criminal and administrative remedies for violations of human rights,

Considering that the rule of law contributes to the proper maintenance of law and order and the legal development of social relations and provides a means of ensuring that the State does not exercise its powers in an arbitrary way,

Considering also that under the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration can be fully realized,

Bearing in mind the various resolutions adopted on the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, most recently its resolution 1993/87 of 10 March 1993, and the need to strengthen that programme and to make it more effective,

Recognizing that, particularly in developing countries which are fully committed to human rights and may face difficulties in this area, the United Nations system should contribute with technical, material and financial resources to assist those Governments that so request to develop and strengthen the rule of law with a view to ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing the need for the United Nations to equip itself with the mechanisms required for making a more positive and significant contribution to strengthening the rule of law in countries engaged in such efforts,

Aware that, to that end, the Centre for Human Rights should be able to offer concrete technical advice and financial support to national projects aiming at the improvement of the human rights situation,

Recalling its resolutions 1992/51 of 3 March 1992 and 1993/50 of 9 March 1993, both entitled "Strengthening of the rule of law",

Noting with appreciation that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, recommended that priority be given to national and international action to promote democracy, development and human rights,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/132 of 20 December 1993, entitled "Strengthening of the rule of law",

1. Endorses the recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights that a comprehensive programme be established within the United Nations, to be coordinated by the Centre for Human Rights, in order to help States in the task of building and strengthening adequate national structures which have a direct impact on the overall observance of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law;

2. Expresses its conviction that such a programme should be able to provide, upon the request of the interested Government, technical and financial assistance for the implementation of national plans of action as well as specific projects in reforming penal and correctional establishments, education and training of lawyers, judges and security forces in human rights, and any other sphere of activity relevant to the proper functioning of the rule of law;

3. Underlines the importance of the request made by the General Assembly to the Secretary-General, in accordance with the recommendation contained in part II, paragraph 70, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, to submit concrete proposals to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session containing alternatives for the establishment, structure, operational modalities and funding of the proposed programme, taking into account existing programmes and activities already undertaken by the Centre for Human Rights;

4. Decides to remain actively seized of this question, with a view to further elaborating the outline of the proposed programme;

5. Also decides to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-first session, under the agenda sub-item entitled "Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms", in the light of the proposals of the Secretary-General.